

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

In the Gospel of Luke 15: 7 we read this; "Jesus says, "In the same way, I tell you that there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous ones who do not need to repent." Being the third Sunday of Advent, we call this Sunday rejoicing Sunday; because the mission preaching of St. John the Baptist is bearing fruit in today's Gospel through true repentance of the heart. The same way each one of us are called to bear the fruit of repentance and prepare the way for Joseph and Mary to reach Bethlehem of our heart without any block of sin.

Today's gospel is the continuation of last week's gospel. In the last week we heard the Mission preaching of St. John the Baptist, asking people to repent. There were all kinds of people gathered around St. John the Baptist to listen to him and today his preaching is bearing fruit. There were people, who found problems with their own lives after listening to the repentance of preaching and were already lined up for the baptism of repentance of new life in Christ and so they are asking an important question-What should we do? To their question, John answers; "whoever has two cloaks should share one with the one who has none, whoever has food should do likewise. To tax collectors he tells stop collecting what is more than prescribed and to Soldiers he said do not accuse and persecute people and be satisfied with your wage". Dear friends this is the secret of a happy and satisfied life in Jesus. By saying this Jesus does not mean that everyone should share their entire wealth and things with others, but He is concerned about fulfilling the basic needs of every one. John the Baptist did not ask tax collectors, soldiers and those who are in authority to abandon their job, but rather ask them to be more responsible and sincere in their respective duties, and to other citizens. Thus St. John the Baptist gives us the message that every job has its dignity and so asks them to consider their job as a way to worship to God.

There is a Chinese saying and it goes like this: "If you give a man a fish, he will eat once, if you teach a man to fish, he will eat for the rest of his life. If you are thinking a year ahead, sow seed. If you are thinking ten years ahead plant a tree. If you are thinking one hundred years ahead educate the people." (Kuantzu). I am sure, to materialize this Chinese saying, it takes time. But, be sure there is an instant result happening in the case of the word of God. The very moment we receive the word of God, right at the same time we can see the fruit of it and that is what we see in today's gospel. So, as we are getting closer to the celebration of Christmas, the Holy mother Church invites us all to open our hearts

to receive the word of God and bear fruit accordingly.

Another important message St. John the Baptist teaches us here is about the tithes. Very often we keep the Old Testament closer to our heart and believe that we owe only 10 % of our income to the Church. But St. John the Baptist correcting this idea and giving us the corrected note that, it is not 10%, but it is 50%. That is why he says to the people, if you have two cloaks give one to the one who does not have, so also the food. This is the same message the story of Zacchaeus teaches us too, when he experiences Jesus in his life. He says, "I give half my belongings to the poor and if I have defrauded anyone in the least, I pay him back fourfold". My dear friends, we are the members of the New Testament, we are called the new Israel and so we need to change our life from the Old Testament to the New Testament and we should begin a new life in Jesus by accepting the preaching of St. John the Baptist and living it.

So, as we continue our journey to Bethlehem with the hope of meeting the Divine Child, let us ask the Eucharistic Lord to inspire each one of us with a repented heart to share and do justice to everyone we meet daily in our lives through love and kindness. **Amen.**

Book Study- St. Sebastian

Is anyone interested in joining the Book Study lead by Sr. Ann from Mont St. Joseph? If you are, please contact Fr. Jegin. Thank you.

Can You Help Pope Francis?

The Synod of Bishops is being held in Rome in 2023. The word "synod" means "journeying together". The primary questions Pope Francis is asking all his children to reflect upon in this period of intensive listening is

- " How are we journeying together as a Church?" In other words, how do we experience the companionship of others and how do we accompany others along the way?
- In what ways can we do better?

Thanks to everyone for your generous contributions to Our Churches during this unfortunate time. God Bless

Financial Report – December 5, 2021

St. Sebastian- Amount Needed: \$2,883.56 weekly

Regular Collection	\$ 3,538.97 + 655.41
Emergency Fund	\$ 140.00
Hispanic Ministry	\$ 5.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 255.00

Financial Report – December 5, 2021

St. Charles - Amount Needed: \$1,058.22 weekly

Regular Collection	\$ 820.00 - 238.22
Emergency Fund	\$ 90.00
Hispanic Ministry	\$ 60.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 125.00

Mass Schedule
December 12 – December 19

Sunday – Third Sunday of Advent

- 8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Jacinta Tichenor Garinger
- 10:30am - Mass at St. Charles
Nora Edge Family

Monday – St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr (Memorial)

- 8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Joe Bickett

Tuesday – St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the church (Memorial)

- 8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Lisa Young

Wednesday- Third Week of Advent

- 6:00pm - Mass at St. Sebastian
Tichenor - Leachman Families
- 6:30pm – Faith Formation

Thursday – Third Week of Advent

- 8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Bernard, Jane and Brenda Payne
- 5:30pm – Mass at St. Charles
Rose Catherine Hardesty

Friday – Third Week of Advent

- 8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Alvin Bickett

Saturday – Third Week of Advent

- 3:00pm - Confession
- 4:00pm - Mass at St. Sebastian
Thomas & Bernice Hobbs

Sunday – Forth Sunday of Advent

- 8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Betty Bickett
- 10:30am - Mass at St. Charles
Bill & Jacinta Garinger

Ministry Schedule
December 18, 2021

St. Sebastian Lector: Michael Cooper

December 19, 2021

St. Sebastian Euch. Min: Laurie Scott
Lector: Lindsay Searcy & Kathy Hudson

Money Counters: Patricia Hayden & Susie Alexander

St. Charles Euch. Min: Lee Edwards
Lector: Matthew Miller & Sarah Miller

Money Counters: David Albin & Jacob Miller

CDC Recommendations for Covid-19 Pandemic

- All Vaccinated and Unvaccinated over the age of two are strongly recommended to wear a facemask properly.
- If you are feeling ill or concerned about exposure to the virus, be encouraged to remain home.
- Gathering spaces to be cleaned and sanitized regularly.
- Continue with proper hand washing and/or sanitizing.
- No social gatherings or meetings are permitted in the church buildings.
- Eucharistic Ministers should be masked and sanitize their hands after receiving the Eucharist.
- Please continue to be diligent.

Food Drive for St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul of McLean County is in need of non-perishable food items for their pantry. Let us all come together to help feed our brothers and sisters in need. " *Whoever cares for the poor lends to the Lord, who will pay back the sum in full.*" Proverbs 19:17

St. Sebastian - Anniversary



David & Betty Abrams - December 19

St. Charles - Happy Birthday



George Rhodes - December 13
Christina Hudson - December 14
Marylyne Miller - December 16

St. Sebastian - Happy Birthday



Jerry Abney - December 14
Laura Lebold - December 18

Please Pray for our Military

MMN1 Andrew Logsdon, SSgt. James (J.P.) Dye, John Randall Zaremba, Major Jack Kaina, Major Bradley Summers, Lance Corporal Marine Joseph Ryan Hunter, Lt. Col. Michael Rezebek. A.B. Phillip Wilson, Specialist 4 Chaz McKay, Sgt. Adam Dickey, and Corpsman Aly Franklin.

Prayer List for Members of our Community

Melanie Mayes, Jason Evans, Lisa Jackson, Ethan Settle, Jimmy Clayton, Pat Calhoun, Sonny Renfrow, Kimberly Nowak, Todd Tichenor, Kimberly Stiles, Louis & Alice Weise, Callie Hayden, Mary Jewell, Tom Schutte, Evelyn Drury, Bill Abney, Debbie Dunn, Ben Dunn, Tommy England, Louis Dant, Becky Cheatham, Lisa Vaught, Lance Green and Neil Hayden, Serena Cooper, Jeff Husk.