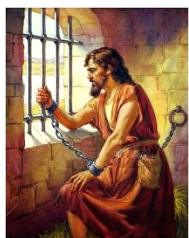


Third Sunday of Advent – December 14, 2025



When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers

are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me." As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you. Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." - Matthew 11:2-11

A Healing Messiah?

John the Baptist, in prison because of his confrontation with Herod over the king's unlawful marriage, sends disciples to ask Jesus if he really is the one they have been expecting. That action triggers one of the most fascinating exchanges in the Gospels.

Matthew makes it clear that there is no question in his own mind as to the identity of Jesus. He writes: "When John heard in prison of the works of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to him" (New American Bible, 1986). In other words, from his post-Easter perspective, Matthew has no trouble referring to Jesus as "the Christ." But the Baptist apparently had his doubts. Why? Among the varieties of Judaism of the first century—among, for example, Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes—there was a corresponding variety of images of the Messiah. Some expected the Anointed One to emerge from the priestly caste. Others looked for a prophet like Moses. Many expected a son of David cut from the same combative cloth, i.e., a warrior king who would defeat their enemies and establish political autonomy for the people of Judea. John had preached a coming Judgment Day, when the ax would be laid to the root.

Along comes Jesus, telling stories, eating with sinners, and healing. While it is possible that John knew perfectly well that Jesus was the Messiah, and, as a pedagogical ploy, was simply setting his disciples up to discover that for themselves, it is plausible that the question of Jesus' identity was very much his own.

As is typical of Jesus when confronted with a question, he prompts the questioners to discover the answer for themselves. Rather than giving a simple yes or no, Jesus instructs them to tell John what they see and hear. He proceeds to describe what they are seeing and hearing in words that echo Isaiah. The mention of blind people seeing, lame persons walking and deaf people hearing evokes the very passage used as our [First Reading](#) this Sunday. And the reference to preaching Good News to the poor recalls Isaiah 61. As

far as we know, no one in Judea at this time expected that the coming Anointed One would be a healer. In effect, then, Jesus was telling John's disciples: "Look around and see what is happening. The healings that Isaiah links with the end-time restoration of Israel are happening. Just maybe, the 'One who is to come' at the end-time is here as well." In the next chapter Jesus makes it clear that his healings and his messianic mission are connected: "If it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you" ([Mt 12:28](#)).

These healings of the blind, deaf, and lame that made up so much of the ministries of Jesus and the early Church—were they simply signs to prove the divinity of Jesus and special helps for the infant Christian communities? Some authors have thought so. But there is also a long tradition of interpretation, including many patristic writers, who understand the healing portrayed in the New Testament as a normal component of Church life. The Church's requirement of documented healing miracles in the canonization process is an indication that healing beyond medical explanation is a continued expectation in the Church. The ongoing documentation of extraordinary physical healings at Lourdes is another reminder.

Yet these extraordinary experiences can distract us from the reality that healing, mental and physical, has always been a side effect of the life of faith lived fully. The patristic writings refer to healing in response to prayer as a fact of Church life. Testimonies regarding physical and mental healings in the context of contemporary prayer groups abound.

My own suspicion is that most common (undocumented) healing occurs when a mother prays for an ailing child. And isn't it true that all of our daily personal encounters are either a little bit of a healing or a little bit toxic? It is good to remember that the risen Lord we approach and mediate in the sacraments is a healing Messiah. Openness to that reality can be a source of wholeness in our personal and collective lives. -Dennis Hamm, SJ

Readings For Third Sunday of Advent

Reading I: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

Reading II: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Readings For Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reading I: Isaiah 7:10-14

Reading II: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

FINANCE

1st Collection= \$4,275

-This week's 2nd Collection is for Building & Maintenance

-Next week's 2nd Collection is for Retired Religious

Objetivo AMA 2025: \$19,700

Regalos recibidos: \$18,063 Saldo adeudado: \$1,637



Sacred Heart Rosary

Please join us! We are here every Tuesday at 11:30am in the Chapel

Eureka Holy Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 13

3:15 Confession St. Joseph Church
4:00 pm +Don Michael St Joseph Church

Sunday, December 14

7:30 am Cathy & Don Dellabalma St. Joseph Church
9:00 am +Rosita Luzame Sacred Heart Church
10:30am Mass for the People St. Bernard Church
12:15 pm(Sp) No Intention Sacred Heart Church

Monday, December 15

12:15pm +Nick Giannini St. Bernard Church

Tuesday, December 16

7:30am In Honor of the Holy Family St. Joseph Church

Wednesday, December 17

12:15 pm +Hope McNeil St. Bernard Church
6:00 pm Adoration & Confession Sacred Heart Church
7:00 pm (Sp) No Intention Sacred Heart Church

Thursday, December 18

7:30 am Hugo Pompati & Family St. Joseph Church
11:30am No Intention St. Joseph Hospital Chapel

Friday, December 19

12:15 pm +Laura Phelps St. Bernard Church
*Followed by Adoration & Confessions

Saturday, December 20

3:15 Confession St. Joseph Church
4:00 pm +Sharon Read St Joseph Church

Sunday, December 21

7:30 am Don & Cathy Dellabalma St. Joseph Church
9:00 am +Maria Jaca de Guzman Sacred Heart Church
10:30am +Chad Kryla St. Bernard Church
12:15 pm(Sp) Mass for the People Sacred Heart Church

Please Pray For: Rosemary Murphy, Eliana Omev, Pat Rider, Duane David, Thanh Strelow, Sally-Ann Thomas, Chaz Desoteau, Nagee Ellis, Theresa Martin, Jackeline Williams, Diane Kerr, Karla Kincade, Tammie Startare, Lynn Agajanian, Gary Agajanian, Linda Brown, Eliot Cabreon, Michael Arnold, Hatsue Riecke, Ray Moisa, Marion Adams, Adriana

Please Pray For Our Beloved Departed:

+Colleen Cruz +Joe Thompson +Gina Costa +Stella Reyes
+Mary Walsh+Rolly Luzame +Brenda Zwiefelhofer +
Louise Y. Russo, +Bernadette Chapman +Saturnina
Tetrault +Marie Giampaolo, +Tony Siström, +Marilyn
Zibilich, +Diacono Frank Weber +Felipe de Jesus Silva
Rodriguez +My-Hieu Venema +Avira Agata Concepta
Gomes +Colby Arnett +Lorraine Cooney, +Chris Scott,
+Sharon Omev, +Jim Cruz, +Deacon Jim Hercher, +Susan
Bonomini, +Peggy Kirkpatrick, +Paul McNally,
+Richard Kerr, +Ernestine Josephine
Hawthorne, +Adelena Ramos, +Msgr. Gerard
Brady, +Raul Moctezuma, +Robert Kerr



**St. Bernard Prayer Line – Please Call Allen / Illeen
at 707-442-6844 to pray with them for your
intentions**

~ Upcoming Events ~



Come One Come All To our first ever Christmas Carol Sing Along!

Followed by treats and hot drinks! December 14, 2025 5pm in Sacred Heart Church. Bring a plate of goodies to share. Bring your friends. Open to all! The more the merrier!!!

Christmas Pageant Call Out For Children's Mass Participation

You are invited with your children to come and participate in the Christmas pageant mass. Please contact Maria Romo or Maria Freitas if you would like your child to be in the pageant. They will be taking names and phone numbers after the 9 am mass and 10:30 and 12:15 mass. The children's mass will be Dec. 24 at 4pm at Sacred Heart. Thank you Maria Romo DRE

Invitation To Monastic Retreat For Young Men

"Come, Lord Jesus, come!" I extend a special invitation to any of our college students (or other young men) who have some free time over Christmas break to make a *Come and See* retreat here at the monastery. Consider a monastic vocation as we rejoice in the birth of the Eternal Word into the family of the chaste St. Joseph and the Virgin Mary. **I am proposing that we begin on Saturday, December 29, 2025, and conclude on Monday, January 8, 2026, but I will readily accommodate your individual college schedules.** Please contact me as soon as possible if you may be able to attend this vocation retreat, or even if you simply want to spend some quiet time in prayer and healing here at the monastery. I would appreciate it if all of you would pray for this retreat and extend this invitation to other young men who might benefit from attending. -Fr. O'Hara Holy Family Monastery, 764 Centerville Rd, Ferndale, CA 95536, 509-530-8730, HolyFamily4u2.com

SVDP Blankets For Care Annual Project

Our annual project Blankets for Care Homes is underway. We are inviting you to donate a blanket or a package of socks that will go to a local Care Home residents (Seaview, Eureka Rehab, Granada etc) this Christmas. We want them to know we care and wish them well. A box for your donation is in the narthex of the church. All blankets and socks must be received by Sunday, December 21st, after 9 am Mass for delivery to the Care Homes. Thank you for continuing to think of others. For more information, call Georgeanne at 497-9929

SVDP CHRISTMAS MEAL DONATIONS &

VOLUNTEER NEEDS St. Vincent de Paul Dining Facility will host a Christmas Holiday Meal on Thursday, December 25, 2025, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Food Donations – *Ham (preferably spiral sliced), Yams / Sweet Potatoes, Bread Stuffing, Yukon Gold Potatoes, Whip Cream (Cool Whip or Spray Cans), Candy Canes, Tiny Marshmallows, Canned Goods (large or #10 size, if possible) – Green Beans, Cream of Mushroom Soup, Crispy Fried Onions, Candied Yams, Cranberry Sauce, Canned Fruit.* Black Nitrile Gloves – sizes M, L, and XL (sold at US Chef's Store and Harbor Freight) **Volunteers are needed for the following:**

Food & Dining Room Prep: DEC 24, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Christmas Day: Serving Table Set-Up & Kitchen Help: 8:30 – 10:45 AM. Meal Service & Kitchen Help: 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Clean-Up: 1:30 – 3:30 PM
Winter Wear Donations – *Wool Blankets, Gloves, Snowcaps, Heavy-Duty Socks, Winter Coats, Hiking Boots, Back-Packs, Ponchos / Raincoats and Christmas Gifts for Older Teens.* Please contact Mary or Eric at 707-445-9588 Drop off donations between 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM, M-F at the SVDP Dining Facility - 35 W. Third Street, Eureka 95501
Thank You for your support!